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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 000999

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STATE FOR NEA, NEA/ARP, IO/UNP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/20/2021

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [MU](#)

SUBJECT: OMAN REACTION: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL DEMARCHE

REF: SECSTATE 99490

Classified By: Ambassador Gary A. Grappo. Reason: 1.4 (b, d).

11. (C) In a June 20 call on Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yusuf bin Alawi, the Ambassador raised reftel points, urging that the inaugural session of the new UN Human Rights Council not get bogged down in divisive debate over particular countries when more basic decisions about the new body's method of operation needed to be addressed. The Minister replied that the recent deaths of innocent Palestinian families on a Gaza beach was a highly emotive topic, and that it is only natural that states will take an opportunity to express their views. Israel, he said, could have defused the topic earlier simply by admitting its mistake. He added pessimistically that, by whatever name it goes, the UN Human Rights Council (or any future iterations of it) will function more or less the same as the defunct UN Human Rights Commission.

12. (C) The Minister's political adviser, Mohammed al-Hassan (a veteran of Oman's mission to the UN), added that he had been informed that Israel has not thus far been a major point of discussion at the new Council's inaugural session, nor was it likely to be. He was surprised the USG had deemed the possibility sufficiently likely to demarche on the topic.  
GRAPPO